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*that's in
when school is out!*



Local government can help...

The Summer Food Service Program for Children



Everyone Wins With Summer Food!

- Low-income children have nutritious meals and organized activities.
- Low-income parents stretch food dollars and have healthy recreation for their children.
- Food service workers have summer employment.
- The government agency receives Federal money to carry out the program.

What is the summer food program?

The Summer Food Service Program for Children is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered at the State level by a State agency. The agency reimburses sponsors (such as local government) for meals served at approved feeding sites in low-income areas to children 18 years and under.

Who can sponsor the summer food program?

Schools, camps, private nonprofit organizations, and *units of local government*.

What is an approved feeding site?

A feeding site must be approved by the State agency as either an “open” or “enrolled” site.

An “open” site is one in which at least half the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

An “enrolled” site is one in which at least half the children enrolled in the summer program are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch.

Who can receive meals at an approved feeding site?

All children 18 years of age or under are eligible to receive free meals at an “open” site. Only enrolled children may eat at an “enrolled” site.

How does a government agency apply to be a program sponsor?

Contact the State agency and complete an application form supplied by the agency.

How are government sponsors reimbursed for the meals served?

Forms documenting how many meals were served for the month must be submitted to the State agency. There is an administering and operating rate for each meal served. The sponsor will be reimbursed at that rate or for actual cost if less than the rate. The rates for the summer of 1998 are:

Administering Rate		Rural or Self-Prep	Urban or Vended
	lunch	\$0.2175	0.1800
	breakfast	0.1175	0.0925
	snacks	0.0600	0.0475
Operating Rate	All Sponsors		
	lunch	\$2.080	
	breakfast	1.190	
	snacks	0.4800	



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Is there a State or local match required to receive the Federal dollars to operate a summer food program?

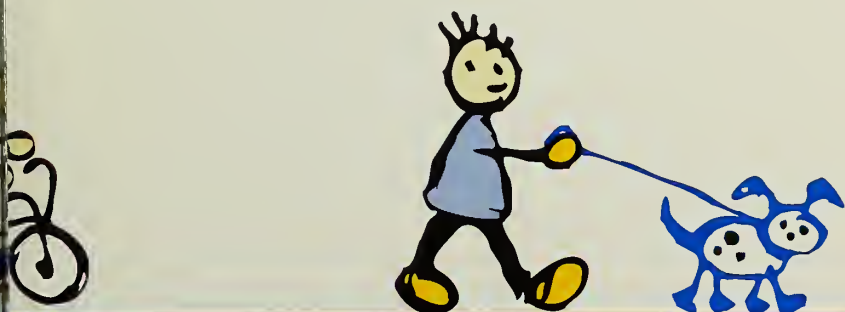
There is no required match. With good planning, the reimbursement rate should be enough to cover costs.

What type of meal service is required?

Meals must have the same meal components as school lunch and breakfast. Lunch and one other meal or snack may be served. Additional benefits are available for migrant sites.

Can the government agency administer the program and supervise the feeding sites without actually having to prepare the meals?

Many government agencies, such as city parks and recreation departments, have no facilities to prepare meals. Meal preparation can be subcontracted to a school or other public or private food supplier with approved meal preparation facilities. The rate for meal preparation is negotiated. If your agency is interested in this arrangement, contact the summer food State agency, or find another agency with whom to subcontract meal preparation.



*Make Summer a Nutritious and Healthy
Experience for Lower Income Children*

Operate A Summer Food Program

Around 14 million children depend on free or reduced-price school lunches and breakfasts for 9 months out of the year.

For many of those children, summer vacation does not mean "fun in the sun" but rather increased risk of hunger and developmental decline.

As government officials, you may know that children who miss school breakfast and lunch are more likely to be sick, absent or tardy, disruptive in class, and inattentive. They also score lower on achievement tests. Good nutrition is essential for learning in school.

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition—which is crucial for children to have safe and productive summers.

The summer food program provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals. The summer food program helps lower income children have productive summers and return to school ready to learn.

What's the next step?

Contact your State agency or the appropriate USDA regional office listed here:

Mid-Atlantic 609-259-5025

DC 202-576-7400
DE 302-739-4676
MD 410-767-0199
NJ 609-984-0692
PA 717-787-7698
PR 787-754-0790
VA 609-259-5050
VI 340-774-9373
WV 304-558-2708

Midwest 312-353-6664

IL 217-782-2491
IN 317-232-0850
MI 312-353-6673
MN 612-296-6986
OH 614-466-2945
WI 608-267-9121

Mountain Plains 303-844-0300

CO 303-866-6661
IA 515-281-5356
KS 913-296-2276
MO 573-751-6269
MT 406-444-2505
NE 402-471-3566
ND 701-328-2294
SD 605-773-3413
UT 801-538-7513
WY 307-777-7494

Northeast 617-565-6370

CT 860-638-4239
ME 207-287-5315
MA 617-388-3300 x498
NH 603-271-3646
NY 212-620-6307
RI 401-277-4600 x2452
VT 802-828-2447

Southeast 404-562-1800

AL 334-242-8225
FL 904-488-7649
GA 404-730-2612
KY 502-573-4390
MS 601-354-7015
NC 919-733-2973
SC 803-734-2800
TN 615-313-4764

Southwest 214-290-9800

AR 501-682-8869
LA 504-342-3720
NM 505-827-9961
OK 405-521-3327
TX 512-483-3941

Western 415-705-1310/04

AK 907-465-8708
AZ 602-542-8709
CA 916-445-0850
HI 808-733-8400
ID 208-332-6820
NV 702-687-9154
OR 503-378-3579 x467
WA 360-753-3580

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USDA prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs. To file a complaint, write to the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Dr., Alexandria, VA 22302.



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